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Passages from New Publications.

MR. TUCKERMAN has just issued a new volume of biographical and literary sketches, which bears the title, "Characteristics of Literature illustrated by the Genius of Distinguished Men." He has happily chosen Sir Thomas Browne as the representative of the Philosopher; Channing of the Moralist; Roscoe of the Philanthropist; Lamb of the Humorist; Macaulay of the Historian, &c., &c. A glance at its pages, and a knowledge of the author, assure us that it will be admitted one of the happiest works which has proceeded from his pen,—discriminating in its distinctions, with the accessory illustrations of a man of taste and travel. As a pleasant specimen of the book, we present a chaste and discriminating picture of a minor author, little heard of in these bustling times, but of whom it is always agreeable, from his association with nature, to read.

THE DILETTANTE.—SHENSTONE.

A friend of mine recently purchased, at auction, an old copy of Shenstone. It is illustrated with a portrait and frontispiece representing some kind of aquatic bird peering up from among the reeds, by the side of a little waterfall. There is an eulogistic preface by Dodsley, several pages of tributary verse, and a map of the bard's rural paradise. The care bestowed upon the work indicates the estimation in which Shenstone was held by his contemporaries; and it is a singular evidence of the mutation of taste to compare these effusions with the order of poetry now in vogue. There is a class of readers who deem the praises lavished upon the modern English poets extravagant; who are impatient at Talfourd's refined analysis of Wordsworth, and Jeffrey's laudation of Campbell. If such cavillers would glance at the volumes before us, and note how tamely the changes are rung on Damons, Melissas, Philomels, and Cynthias—how Phœbus is invoked and Delia dawdled over; what rhymes elegiac wind along as if, like Banquo's issue, they would stretch to the crack of doom,—and then turn to the spirited apostrophes of Byron or the exquisite sentiment of Tennyson, they would feel, by the force of contrast, what a glorious revolution

has taken place in English poetry. Nothing can appear more flat than many of Shenstone's pathetic verses. They are written usually in that sing-song, die-away measure, of which "I pity the sorrows of a poor old man" is the everlasting type. Here and there a happy epithet or well-chosen image relieves the insipidity of the strain; but in general a thorough Laura-Matildaish tone, so admirably satirized in "Rejected Addresses," falls upon the ear with a dulcet but senseless monotone:

"Where is Cupid's crimson motion?
Billowy ecstasy of woe!
Bear me straight, meandering ocean,
Where the stagnant torrents flow."

The best verses of the occasional poems are such as these:

"O may that genius, which secures my rest,
Preserve this villa for a friend that's dear,
Ne'er may my vintage glad the sordid breast,
Ne'er tinge the lip that dares be insincere."

Thou knowest how transport thrills the tender breast,
Where love and fancy fix their opening reign;
How nature shines in holier colors drest,
To bless their union, and to grace their train."

Let Ceylon's envied plant perfume the seas,
'Till torn to season the Batavian bowl;
Ours is the breast whose genuine ardors please,
Nor need a drug to meliorate the soul."

Such is the usual strain of Shenstone. Did space allow, we would extract the Ballad of Nancy of the Vale, to contrast it with "Poor Susan;" and the "Dying Kid" with the "White Doe of Rylstone," in order to illustrate what a reaction from the extreme of artificial pathos to the heart of nature, modern poetical genius has undergone; or we would place the "Jemmy Dawson" of Shenstone beside Hood's "Dream of Eugene Aram," to make palpable to the dullest intellect, how the more sympathetic and enlightened humanity of later bards has thrown a true moral sadness around crime. It is the same in poems of the affections. What fresh and natural life renders Barry Cornwall's love songs instinct with vital beauty, and how real appears the earnestness of Mrs. Hemans, notwithstanding the monotony of her strain! Shenstone's memorable production is "The Schoolmistress"—a sketch drawn minutely from life, and in versification and style imitated closely from Spenser. It is one of those characteristic and truthful pictures of real life, which artistically, yet naturally executed, like Goldsmith's "Deserted Village," and "Gray's Elegy," has a permanent niche in the temple of the British muses. It is curious, with the sweet fancifulness of the Fairy Queen, the lofty idealism and elegiac pathos of Shelley's Adonais, or the rhetorical energy and intense picturesqueness of Childe Harold, present in the mind, to turn to the simple imagery of the same stanza in the "Schoolmistress." The whole description is said to have been taken, to the veriest details, from the old dame who taught Shenstone in infancy; and we copy three of the first stanzas as examples of humble description in Spenserian verse, as well as to give a fair idea of the tenor of this favorite household poem:

"And all in sight doth rise a birchen tree,
Which leaning near her little donee did grow;
Whilom a twig of small regard to see,
Though now so wide its waving branches flow;

And work the simple vassals mickle woe;
For not a wind might curl the leaves that blew,
But their limbs shuddered, and their pulse beat low;
And as they look'd they found their horror grew,
And shaped it into rods, and tingled at the view."

"One ancient hen she took delight to feed,
The plodding pattern of the busy dame;
Which, ever and anon, impelled by need,
Into her school, begirt with chickens came,
Such favour did her past deportment claim;
And, if neglect had lavished on the ground
Fragments of bread, she would collect the same;
For well she knew, and quaintly could expound,
What sin it were to waste the smallest crumb she found."

"Herbs too she knew, and well of each could speak,
That in her garden sipped the silvery dew;
Where no vain flower disclosed a gaudy streak,
But herbs for use, and physick, not a few,
Of grey renown, within those borders grew:
The tufted basil, pun-provoking thyme,
Fresh balm, and marygold of cheerful hue;
The lowly gill, that never dares to elumb;
And more I fain would sing, disdaining here to rhyme."

It is almost unprecedented for a poet to be remembered for his abode, and yet such is the case with Shenstone. His writings are so intimately associated with his residence, that we seldom recur to one without thinking of the other. In his day, landscape gardening was a novelty; and his adornment of his paternal inheritance gratified at once his taste, his indolence, and his ambition.

Yet how far removed from the true principles of rural art were his ideas, may be realized by contrasting the petty artifices to which he resorted with the truly noble results of landscape gardening achieved by our own accomplished professor (A. J. Downing) of this beautiful and useful science. There is a prettiness but no scope in his poetry, as there was fancy but no comprehensive plan in the decoration of his grounds. In both he illustrated the artificiality of his day. His once celebrated abode is now only to be recognised by a lawn and a bridge which yet remain. All that is pleasing is the general view. Quakers halt there for refreshment, returning from Stonebridge meeting to Birmingham. This is an amusing coincidence, for no reader except one of the subdued taste of these "calm brethren" would ever think, while journeying about Parnassus, of halting to refresh themselves with the poems of Shenstone.

To an American eye, the charm of European gardens is rather owing to the novelty of their natural productions than the style of their arrangement. The grand scale of our scenery renders all tricks paltry by comparison; and the artificial substitutes for natural diversity give a scenic rather than a picturesque effect. The elegance of Versailles is apparent and unrivalled; but this quality rather offends than delights when applied to external nature. At Rome, the clipped, dense evergreens, weather-stained marbles, and humid alleys of the Villa Borghese, do not win the imagination like the vast, uncultured Campagna. A fine English park, with smooth roads intersecting natural forests, is more truly beautiful than a parterre surrounded with fantastic patterns of box or studded with bowers and temples, like the back scene of a play. The famous villa of the eccentric nobleman near Palermo, assures the traveller to what an extent a love of the grotesque may be carried in converting a residence of fine natural capabilities into an

architectural and horticultural museum. Indeed, all experiments in this field of human ingenuity simply prove, that the judicious adaptation of natural advantages to beautiful and useful results, is all that can be wisely attempted. A clearing here, a path there, filling up a hollow, levelling a hill, letting in sunshine and shutting out the view of deformity—in a word, modifying the primitive aspect and not substituting art for nature, is the sign of a healthful taste. Such is the Anglo-Saxon tendency, as manifest in the noble appreciation of forest trees by Evelyn, and in the absence of the finical in most English and American rural homesteads. A disposition to ornament nature is altogether French; and its appearance on the other side of the Channel has always been coincident with periods of conventional taste in society and letters. The formal elegance of a French garden or villa differs from the picturesque exuberance of an American woodland or an English meadow, just as Shakespeare differs from Racine. The one lays open nature for our cordial recognition, the other trims her after a classic or fanciful pattern; the one abounds in suggestions, the other in technicalities.

Shenstone represented this species of taste both in his grounds and his poems. The feet of his stanzas are ingeniously varied, and so were the walks through his domain. The flights of his muse were limited to the horizon of a small experience, and the prospects obtainable on his estate were equally bounded. Within the narrow compass of his sympathies, he ingeniously contrived to make as varied and melodious a little world as possible; and within the boundaries of Leasowes, he was not less inventive—here setting up a fantastic temple, and there a dark grove; now turning a rivulet into a cascade, and now surprising his guest with a root-woven seat in an arbor beside a crystal pool, or in view of a pretty vista. He wrote elegies on his friends, and erected funeral urns in their honor among his trees. He tried to win admiration by the sweet monotony of his verses and the graceful windings of his paths; and was not less fastidious in the turn of a stanza than in the pruning of an ilex.

He prided himself upon being anti-utilitarian. When a child, he always expected his mother to bring him a new book from market, and she; when neglecting to do so, used to give him a piece of wood covered to resemble a volume, with which he went contentedly to bed—thus early deriving from an indolent imagination the satisfaction which active realities only yield to others. He is said to have been indignant when asked if there were fishes in his miniature lakes. This extreme devotion to eye-pleasure led him even to neglect personal comfort, and he retired from his shrines and bowers to a mean and broken-roofed cottage. It is highly probable that the exposure he there suffered induced the fever of which he died. The expensive indulgence of this peculiar ambition soon brought him into pecuniary troubles; and bailiffs intruded where only guests of taste were desired.

There was something analogous in the dispositions of Thomson and Shenstone. The latter possessed an amiable temper combined with the tendency to extremes which appears to be inseparable from the poetic idiosyncrasy, even when crudely developed. "I never," said he, "will be a revengeful enemy; but I cannot, it is not in my nature, to be half a friend." He could have married, it is said, the lady to whom are addressed the best of his amatory effusions; but something of the same

mystery involves his celibacy as is the case with the bard of the Seasons.

"Agriculture," says Keats, in one of his letters recently published, "is the tamer of men,—the steam from the earth is like drinking their mother's milk—it enervates their natures. This appears a great cause of the imbecility of the Chinese; and if this sort of atmosphere is a mitigation to the energies of a strong man, how much more must it injure a weak one, unoccupied, unexercised?" It seems as if rural pleasures should be occasional to be salutary. If Shenstone's life had been exposed to the intellectual and moral incitements of a metropolitan career, he would have retired to Leasowes with enlarged ideas and wider sympathies, and perhaps have risen from the details of a virtuoso to the general effects achieved by the thinker.

Some of his essays are pleasing, but devoted to quiet moralizing or some insignificant theme. His letters scarcely touch upon anything but his writings and his place. Around these his thoughts and sympathies constantly revolved with an egotism which gives one a melancholy impression of the narrow resources and unmanly tone to which fanciful solitude may reduce an educated mind. He continued his name ten years at Oxford for the mere pleasure of learning, took no degree, and put on the civilian's gown without intending to engage in a profession. He then gave a brief period to acquainting himself with life by visits to the principal watering-places. Thus provided with a modicum of learning and experience, he returned to his birthplace, and simultaneously practised verse-writing and landscape gardening; but the want of enlarged curiosity, exalted aims, and broad views, caused his tenderness and benevolence to evaporate in sentimental hospitality, and his invention to expend itself on inadequate materials.

"I have," says one of his letters, "an alcove, six elegies, a seat, two epitaphs (one upon myself), four songs, and a serpentine river, to show you when you come." This passage gives us an insight, at once, into the chief occupations of Shenstone. His "Essay on Men and Manners" contains many sensible observations agreeably expressed; but, like his poetry, seldom rising above a tranquil gracefulness of diction or pleasantry of thought. He belongs, however, to the correct and refined school of essayists of which Addison is the main exemplar. We quote a few sentences at random, as specimens of the manner and ideas of a genuine dilettante:

"When fame is the principal object of our devotion, it should be considered whether our character is like to gain in point of wit, what it will probably lose in point of modesty; otherwise we shall be censured of vanity more than famed for genius; and depress our character while we strive to raise it."

"The impromptu appears to me to have the nature of that kind of salad, which certain eminent adepts in chemistry have contrived to raise while a joint of mutton is roasting. We do not allow ourselves to blame its unusual flatness and insipidity, but extol the little flavor it has, considering the time of its vegetation."

"There would not be any absolute necessity for reserve, if the world were honest; yet even then it would prove expedient. For in order to attain any degree of deference, it seems necessary that people should imagine you have more accomplishments than you discover. It is on this depends one of the excellences of the judicious Virgil. He leaves you something ever to imagine; and such is the constitution of the human mind, that we think

so highly of nothing, as that whereof we do not see the bounds."

"The delicacy of his taste increased his sensibility, and his sensibility made him more a slave. The mind of man, like the finer parts of matter, the more delicate it is, naturally admits the more deep and the more visible impressions."

"Whence is it, my friend, that I feel it impossible to envy you, although, hereafter, your qualifications may make whole millions do so? for, believe me when I affirm, that I deem it much more superfluous to wish you honors to gratify your ambition, than to wish you ambition enough to make your honors satisfactory."

"All trees have a character analogous to all men: oaks are in all respects the perfect image of the manly character. In former times I should have said, and in present times I think I am authorized to say, the British one. As a brave man is not suddenly either elated by prosperity or depressed by adversity, so the oak displays not its verdure on the sun's first approach, nor drops it on his first departure. Add to this its majestic appearance, the rough grandeur of its bark, and the wide protection of its branches."

"Indolence is a kind of centripetal force."

"I hate maritime expressions, similes, and allusions; my dislike, I suppose, proceeds from the unnaturalness of shipping, and the great share which art ever claims in that practice."

"I am thankful that my name is obnoxious to no pun."

"It is a miserable thing to love where one hates; and yet it is not inconsistent."

"I cannot avoid comparing the ease and freedom I enjoy to the ease of an old shoe; where a certain degree of shabbiness is joined with the convenience."

"Two words, 'no more,' have a singular pathos; reminding us at once of past pleasure and the future exclusion of it."

"The superior politeness of the French is in nothing more discernible than in the phrases used by them and us to express an affair being in agitation. The former say 'sur la tapis;' the latter 'upon the anvil.' Does it not show also the sincerity and serious face with which we enter upon business, and the negligent and jaunty air with which they perform even the most important?"

"There are many persons acquire to themselves a character of insincerity, from what is in truth mere inconstancy. And there are persons of warm but changeable passions, perhaps the sincerest of any in the very instant they make profession, but the very least to be depended on through the short duration of all extremes."

"Extreme volatile and sprightly tempers seem inconsistent with any great enjoyment. There is too much time wasted in mere transition from one object to another; no room for those deep impressions which are made alone by the duration of an idea; and are quite requisite to any strong sensation, either of pleasure or of pain. The bee to collect honey, or the spider to gather poison, must abide some time upon the weed or flower. They whose fluids are mere sal volatile, seem rather cheerful than happy men. The temper above described, is oftener the lot of wits than of persons of great abilities."

FLATTERY.—"It is possible to be below flattery as well as above it. One who trusts nobody will not trust sycophants. One who does not value real glory will not value its counterfeit."—*Macaulay's History.*

Reviews.

M. POUSSIN'S UNITED STATES.

De la Puissance Américaine; Origine, Institutions, Esprit Politique, Ressources Militaires, Agricoles, Commerciales et Industrielles des Etats-Unis. Par Guillaume Tell Poussin, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de la République Française aux Etats-Unis. 3^{me} Edition augmentée, 2 vols. 8vo. Paris: 1848.

Of late years there has been no scarcity of books on America, nor is it probable that there will be any dearth of them in future. France and Germany have contributed their proportion, but the discussions of American institutions and manners with which we are most familiar have proceeded from the English press. They have been the work of men of various degrees of information, and sometimes of character which would not bear minute investigation. Sportsmen, briefless lawyers, contributors to light literature, unsuccessful adventurers, and officers on half pay, have quietly assumed that they were competent to the task of describing men and institutions with whose principles they had little acquaintance, and with whose character they had no sympathy. If they have pointed out some superficial defects in our national manners, they have seldom penetrated to the great realities which lie below. This may perhaps be ascribed, in part, to a desire to arrest the progress of liberal principles in their own country, by showing that they have yielded no good fruits among a people of kindred race; and in part to the intense and narrow nationality which covers the Englishman like a garment, and too often renders him insensible to any excellence which had not its origin and development within the four seas.

A book of travel, still more a formal treatise on the polity and social life of nations, should be written in no cockney spirit. This spirit is peculiar to no nation—we have quite enough of it among ourselves. In its essence, it consists in that peculiar temperament which reduces all people and institutions to the standard of our own neighborhood or *coterie*, and judges them by their conformity to it. It does not inquire whether the great objects of human life—freedom and happiness—the reconciliation of order with progress—may not be promoted by means other than those we are accustomed to employ. It perceives that the old checks and correctives to human errors and passions are thrown aside, but it does not perceive that others may be equally enduring and effectual. In its worst manifestation, when complicated with political passion, it sees in every divergence from our own standard of manners, the manifestation of national vices. The effects of climate and soil, occupation and diet, are not unfrequently regarded as the fruits of perverted tastes, of vitiated appetites, of moral decline. The extravagance of the demagogue is accepted as an exposition of the calmest reason of the people. The heat of a contested election is represented as the normal state of society. The weakness and wickedness of the extremes of society which fill the columns of the newspapers, and swell the calendars of crime, are exhibited as faithful pictures of general society, without regard to that mass of intelligence and morality which seldom emerges into public notice, but which constitutes the bulwark of national strength.

Faults of this description have especially abounded in the books of travels, and even grave histories with which we have been in-

dulged by our English brethren. Observing a certain lack of that refinement which grows up under the hot-bed influence of a court and aristocracy, they have not inquired whether the Americans would not pay dearly for this advantage, by the consequent depression of every other order in the State. They have overlooked the real conservative elements in American society, while they have been shrewd observers of the undeniable fact that the American eats his boiled egg from a glass, while the Englishman prefers a direct excavation from the shell. In this way they have contributed in no small degree to nourish and inflame that national antipathy at all times thinly disguised in America, which sometimes breaks forth into violent and deplorable manifestations.

In honorable contrast with the labors of writers like these, are the philosophical disquisitions of De Tocqueville, and the comprehensive and accurate observation of Poussin.

The appointment of this latter gentleman to the honorable position of representative of the French Republic, has been regarded in America not merely as a just tribute to his personal worth, but as an indication of the change which is going on in the qualifications of diplomatic agents. The world has suffered long enough from the mischievous incompetency of men with no better distinction than that of rank, sent abroad to secure the interests of peculiar classes—to waste large salaries in ostentatious parade, or to hoard them for future maintenance—oftentimes to make a conspicuous exhibition of their worst national peculiarities, and at last to retire upon a pension earned by no real services to their country or to mankind. If the selection of our own representatives abroad has not always been complimentary to the courts to which they have been accredited, it must be admitted that we have only repaid them in kind for similar favors bestowed upon ourselves.

The French Republic has set before the world a laudable example. In their minister we recognise not the mere diplomatic formalist, but the representative of the science and spirit of improvement of his country. In our own country, whose interests are or ought to be but little complicated with those of foreign nations, the stately diplomatist of the old school, encrusted with the formalities of office, and often too little hampered by moral restraints, finds but little to do. He is far better employed in negotiating family alliances, and bearing his part in the courtly ceremonial of a birthnight ball. To such a representative the American court must be the dullest in the world. Amicable relations with America have little dependence on family interests or local preferences. We inquire, rather, if a people is animated by similar feelings—if they are moving in the same direction. Their representative should be the representative also of their progress in science and art; should promote scientific and literary intercourse, and bear his part in them; and prove, by his sympathy with all measures of improvement, that his government is likewise engaged in advancing the progress of mankind.

As possessing these qualifications, the mission of M. Poussin has been peculiarly acceptable to the American people, and his observations upon our country and its institutions are peculiarly deserving of their consideration. An accomplished engineer, adding to scientific acquirement the acuteness of perception which makes his nation the best observers in the world, he sympathizes with that spirit of improvement which animates the two great republics of our time. A long residence

in America, in a position to facilitate the study of its character and resources, has enabled him to collect a vast fund of information, and to embody it in a better form than has been done by any of our own writers.

The following extracts from the preface will exhibit the author's appreciation of his subject, and the spirit in which his work has been undertaken:—

"The nations can no longer continue strangers to each other. A new and powerful element of civilization has arisen, to bring them into perpetual contact. Steam overleaps distances with the same facility that ideas break through the lines of the custom-house, and fly over walls of circumscription. In a few days we pass from continent to continent, from hemisphere to hemisphere, and when every sea is regularly traversed, and Europe is covered with railways, the relations of the people to each other will become as much more frequent, as travelling, from its cost and duration, ceases to be the peculiar privilege of the favorites of fortune. All classes will avail themselves of it, &c. All things, therefore, concur to urge the nations into a similar progress, and the epochs of isolation are gone, without the possibility of return."

After a reference to the power of Great Britain:—

"Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic, there arises a nation of the same race and origin, animated, perhaps, by the same ambition, but better fitted, in all its relations, to become one of the greatest commercial and industrial powers of the world. * * * To secure the success of her ambitious views, she pursues a course entirely opposed to that which has so well served the purposes of England; the rise of the one has been promoted by the energy of her firmly-established aristocracy: America will gain the supremacy of the seas, by force of the democratic principle. The one has inscribed upon her banners, *Dieu et mon droit*—the other will bear, *'the freedom of the seas'*, and will enforce the recognition of the great and salutary principle, that *the flag covers the merchandise*. * * *

"A faithful picture of the social condition of the Americans will ever be a grand subject of contemplation; the great teachings which it contains seem to derive a new value from the actual state of things at the present day, when the people are everywhere directing their efforts towards the same object, the attainment of political equality."

"I divide my work into two parts. In the first, I retrace the origin, the institutions, above all, the political genius of the Americans. In the second, their military resources, and the development of their agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing industry. There will be found only positive deductions from a multitude of personal observations upon a nation, in the midst of which I have lived, whose progress I have followed, and in whose future I feel an interest as one of her children. I have endeavored to be on my guard against speculative prejudices, which was no trifling difficulty, in view of so vast and fertile a subject."

The first volume of M. Poussin's work is chiefly historical. He first proceeds to a rapid survey of the different voyages of exploration to the New World. He then traces the history of each settlement, during the ascendancy of its French, Spanish, and English masters, rendering due praise to the energy and perseverance of each. He traces in each the gradual development of new principles of domestic policy, of popular sentiments and ideas, which at last find their appropriate result in the union of the United States. He is well aware that the present condition of a people, and the direction in which they are moving, can never be rightly understood unless by a careful study of their origin. Until the first im-

pulse has spent its force, and progress has been succeeded by stagnation or decline, we must investigate the character of a nation in the influences which surrounded its infancy. It is especially important that Americans should understand the traditional character of their institutions. The more generally a view of our present prosperity is preceded by a study of its source, the less shall we be inclined to the vain-glorious opinion that our liberty and our civilization are due only to the intelligence of a single age, and that if once destroyed, the intelligence of a single age could reconstruct them. We shall perceive that they are the results of no sudden and convulsive efforts, among a people imbued with monarchical ideas, and knowing no just mean between despotism and anarchy. We shall recognise more fully our obligation to the patience and resolution of those, who, bringing with them all of the civilization of Europe which could be transplanted to a New World, nourished the seminal principles of our institutions in their slow and sturdy growth. We shall see that if our fathers did not go so far as we have gone, they had set their faces in the same direction; and that, but for them, we should have little reason to congratulate ourselves upon our acquisitions and prospects. But it is a still greater advantage in making the historical development of our institutions a study preliminary to that of their present state, that only thus are we enabled to perceive the true principle of national improvement. We shall realize, what too many seem inclined to forget, how little is to be gained by social experiment; and that in the slow growth of institutions, lies the secret of their legitimacy and strength. While we recognise the duty of national improvement, we shall see that it is to be secured only by the gradual expansion of existing institutions, and not by attempts to realize the dreams of the theorist and the charlatan. While our nature remains unchanged, the same causes which facilitate improvement in the past must be expected to promote it in the future. We should, therefore, reject new theories of social improvement, however specious, until their author can show that some new principle has been introduced into the nature of man.

M. Poussin's survey of Colonial History brings under review the different systems of English and French colonization; and the erroneous principles of the latter are candidly stated. The old theory of colonization is still maintained with great tenacity in England, notwithstanding the example of the United States; and the brawls of our Canadian neighbors have given some interest to the subject among ourselves. It seems to be still believed that political institutions are not the growth of local conditions, but that they can, at any stage of their development, be plucked up and transplanted to a new soil. That an aristocracy can be imported from a country where land is dear and labor cheap, into a region where the opposite condition of society prevails, and labor is dear while land is cheap—that a great central power, surrounded by obsequious dependencies scattered over the globe, the copyists of her laws and manners, and preferring her interest and glory to their own, can long continue the arbiter of their fortunes, while they have no share in her government—is an opinion which we should think too chimerical to find advocates, did not our experience assure us of the contrary. There seems to be a natural limit to the colonial system. There cannot be a political any more than a religious popedom; and the political economy of the nineteenth century will as cer-

tainly fail of its establishment as did the military power of the eighteenth.

We should observe, that throughout the historical portion of the work, the author has carefully furnished the dates of important events—a regard for the wants of his readers, too much neglected by writers with whom accuracy is subordinate to pictorial effect.

In the second volume M. Poussin reviews the military, naval, commercial, and industrial resources of the United States. These are surveyed with the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the scientific inquirer. He awards due praise to our institutions for general education and physical improvement. The perusal of this portion of the work suggests many topics, to which our limits will not permit us to advert. We close with a passage (Vol. ii. p. 281) which proves that in a favorable review of American institutions he is not insensible to our errors and vices.

"One thing, which we cannot hesitate to mention, ought to strike us with surprise—that in the midst of so many favorable circumstances, which Providence has accumulated on this fortunate portion of the globe, the Americans should not be more on their guard against the immoderate development of their speculative character. But societies, like the individuals which compose them, have their weak side, and, after all, should not American Society bear the mark of its original defect?"

"Every nation which takes riches as the standard of good and evil, will exhibit to the world the clearest proof of its demoralization, as in order to attain them, it is compelled to rush blindly into all manner of speculations. Nothing can prevent such a people from becoming slaves, whatever may be the laws under which they live, for in a democracy, the people being the legitimate sovereign, the power which it exercises easily degenerates into despotism."

INGERSOLL'S HISTORY.

Historical Sketch of the Second War between the United States and Great Britain. By Charles J. Ingersoll. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard. 1849.

This is the continuation of Mr. Ingersoll's History of the "Late War," as we suppose it will continue to be called, for the rest of this century; the first volume of which was published a year or two ago. The present volume embraces the events of the year 1814, a year during which the war was prosecuted with vigor on both sides, during which its principal incidents occurred, and during which the political movements and organizations which it evolved, especially those in opposition to its progress, were the most combined and energetic. It is full of information and incident, none the less entertaining from the idiosyncrasies of style and opinion of the author.

Regarded as an historical work upon one of the most important and conspicuous epochs of American History, whose events and excitements are still fresh in the recollections of men of middle age, and have given character and complexion to the whole subsequent course of American politics, it is not at all strange that the party associations and personal opinions of the author should connect themselves inseparably with his book, very much to the prejudice of its reputation. Impartiality can hardly be expected from a political partisan writing the history of political parties. Especially if liberality and concession have been no ingredient of his course as a politician, candor and discrimination can hardly be expected from him as an historian. To write the history of one's own times is, at best, a difficult, dangerous, and thankless task; even if

written with the most unbiassed purpose, and from the least disturbed point of view. How much more hazardous the attempt when the author narrates events and discusses principles which he records, not as a disinterested observer or inquirer, but with all the animosities and prejudices of an active participant and a partial advocate.

It is accordingly taken for granted by a large class of readers and critics, that Mr. Ingersoll's book, being the production of a politician well known as extreme, tenacious, and aggressive in his opinions, must be a tissue of partisanship and prejudice, in which it would be absurd to look for anything like the facts or philosophy of true history. And on the principle remarked upon in the foregoing paragraph, there is certainly reason enough to receive this, or any other contemporaneous work of a similar character, with some distrust. But on the other hand, what is lost by the want of unerring authenticity and impartiality, is gained by the increased vividness of description and freshness of incident which an eyewitness and an actor gives to the narration of the events which he records. We take it for granted that Mr. Ingersoll's book doesn't pretend to that degree of impartiality and unimpeachable *both-side-ness* which seem to be the popular requisites of history. It is one-sided from beginning to end. The author was a Democrat during the war, and a supporter of the war and the administration, in Congress, as a member of the House of Representatives. He abhorred Federalism and Hartford Conventionism in their day, and his antipathies have suffered no decrease by the lapse of time. He writes the history of the war from the popular, democratic, American, anti-English point of view; without the slightest disguise of his political predilections, and with a very evident disposition to meet, half way, the cavils and criticisms which he provokes.

This is all well enough. And while Mr. Ingersoll is responsible, like all other chroniclers who undertake to give the world an authentic record of any period, for mistakes of fact or incorrectness of details, and liable to detection and exposure in consequence; for his opinions and notions, however extreme or violent, he has no account to settle with the general reader. It is rather a relief to have an "honest hater" in history as well as anywhere else, now and then. We are entirely beyond the age when ultraism was a crime or a disadvantage.

Accordingly we take Mr. Ingersoll's diatribes without sympathizing at all with the offended dignity of history, whose propriety they shock dreadfully every now and then, because we regard the book as we do the author, *sui generis*, and quite out of the reach of the ordinary rules of criticism.

The following opening paragraph of the chapter devoted to that "abominated conclave," the Hartford Convention, is a very good specimen of the undisguised style in which the author gives utterance to his opinions.

THE HARTFORD CONVENTION.

"The abortion of an enigma which, in 1814, as the Hartford Convention, became execrable and contemptible, was the most alarming occurrence of that year. Like the capture of Washington, its reaction on its authors was terribly disgraceful; like our Canadian and southern victories, it invigorated the American Union, hastened and ameliorated peace, and to the New Orleans triumphs, its ridiculous catastrophe rendered inevitable by them, was mainly attributable.

"After passing a night in August, 1809, catching codfish on his favorite Banks of Newfound-

land, retiring from trouble in Massachusetts to a Russian mission, John Quincy Adams, by what he deemed the natural transition from codfish to the history of the United States, writing concerning the alleged treason of New England, to his associate informer against it, William Plumer, expressed his belief, that there would be no impartial chronicle, no true history of their time, in their age, but only federal histories or republican histories, New England histories or Virginian histories. Yet, if not developed by some contemporary annalist, but left to posterior speculation, must it not be mere theory and fable? less historical, philosophical, or veritable than the narrative of even a biased contemporary; confessing, as I do, the difficulty of discovering, appreciating, or telling the truth of that abominated conclave, whose first resolution was, that their meetings should be opened by prayer, the next, intensely cabalistic, that the most inviolable secrecy should be observed by each member of the convention, including the secretary, as to all propositions, debates, and proceedings; and the third, that not even the door-keeper, messenger, or assistant should be made acquainted with the proceedings. Wrapped in such dark suspicious secrecy, of which the seal, if ever broke, was not pretended to be opened till several years afterwards, when a bare journal was unveiled to face the universal odium by that time fastened on the convention, became a proverb of reproach, even contemporaries are left to grope in the obscurity of mere circumstantial testimony, perplexed by contradictions and prejudices, involving the design whether merely partisan or criminally treasonable, the sectional animosities peculiar to New England conflicting with each other, confronting and confounding prepossessions of the rest of the United States, whose national character and existence the Hartford Convention implicated. Of positive proof of treason, so seldom attainable that it is not to be expected, there is none. But Mr. Adams insisted on the fact, overpowered by denials, though supported by circumstances. Posterity has acquitted and immortalized many Sydneys executed for treason, and condemned Burrs acquitted of the charge. Was Burr guilty of what Jefferson brought him to trial for, and, with his killing Hamilton, sentenced to irrevocable condemnation, like the Hartford Convention, without conviction of any offence? Adams accused Hamilton of complicity with the convention, whose primary meeting at Boston, Adams believed, was postponed by Burr's killing Hamilton, without preventing, however, its final catastrophe at Hartford. But Adams was prejudiced by hereditary hatred of Hamilton, and his suspicious credulity was as unquestionable as his veracity; formidable as an accuser, but fallible as a witness."

Mr. Ingersoll has an extraordinary way of branching off from the subject in hand, to trace its remotest consequences and results, and epitomize the whole range of events as biographical or historical of which it happens to be an introduction. In this way, all in the record of the year 1814, having once got John Quincy Adams on the stage, he does not leave him until he has given a complete memoir of his subsequent career, winding up with a sketch of his "death, character, and obsequies." In the same way, the attempt to charter the Bank of the United States in 1814, gives the cue for some fifty pages devoted to the subsequent history of that famous institution, including the removal of the deposits, and down to Tyler's veto. In this way, the reader is frequently precipitated from the period of time which he supposes himself to be reading about, ten or twenty years ahead, without the slightest preparatory warning. From the elaborate sketch of John Quincy Adams we quote the following:

CHARACTERISTICS OF MR. ADAMS.

"Though Mr. Adams did not live by many

years as long as his father, yet he was a man of remarkably robust frame and excellent constitution. A female, when he was first made President, complaining to a member of Congress that she could not see the chief magistrate as she desired, 'You have only,' said he, 'to go down to the Potomac bridge any morning about day-light, and you may see him swimming in the river.' After he was seventy years old, that continued to be his habit, and it was said that he often swam across the Potomac where it was more than a mile wide. Although commonly taciturn and often abrupt, Mr. Adams was a very pleasant companion in society, relished with gentlemanlike enjoyment the pleasures of the table, fond of good food, choice wines, and all other resources of conviviality. One Sunday evening, while Secretary of State, entertaining at his own house Nicholas Biddle and other gentlemen, becoming much animated with a description of dramatic performances, of which he was very fond, he started from the table to the middle of the floor, and performed an imitation of Kemble pronouncing the curse in King Lear. Through life a systematic student, he was indefatigable in reading and writing, and, as the world is to find, kept one of the most voluminous diaries ever put to paper. Exemplary in the whole routine of domestic duties, he was liberal, hospitable, and placable, though subject to gusts of passion and fits of taciturnity. Churches and theatres he frequented with the utmost assiduity, and so blended political with religious obligation, as to deem it incumbent on him to attend the miscellaneous divine service in the Capitol every Sunday morning, going to some other place of worship in the afternoon, and often to a third in the evening.

"When he first entered the Hall to resume his seat, after some months' absence during his illness, the whole House of Representatives, every member, rose as he walked down the middle aisle, and by a salute of silent homage welcomed their illustrious associate to a place from which, for fourteen years and more, he had never been absent, in all seasons and weathers, night and day, and not only present, but certainly taking a much more constant interest than any other member in whatever was going on. Always present in body and mind from that time till his death, though his memory may have suffered with his health, his reason and conversation appeared unimpaired; but I think he made only two speeches, and neither of them with his usual vivacity."

The style in which Mr. Ingersoll has written his book, whether affectedly and from design, or from uncontrollable caprice or habit, should be protested against in the name of all that is respectable in syntax or grammar. It is obscure, inelegant, and often positively unintelligible. The author seems to include in his hatred of everything English, the English language itself, and wreaks his vengeance upon the parts of speech in the most ruthless manner. Two or three paragraphs which we quote below, not with the design of calling particular attention to these defects, but because interesting in themselves, carry with them, however, the justification of our remark.

COBBETT.

"In such universal strain of malicious prejudice and stupid ignorance, the British press and Parliament counselled war, stripped of all its humanizing mitigations, naked and ferocious war, to reconquer the United States by divisions and invasion; war of principles and institutions; civil war in its worst outrages; and servile war with all its Roman horrors: in which atrocious instigations is perceptible not only the English design of that day, but the English influence which still prevails throughout New England, inflaming it, under the disguise of negrophilism, to unnatural and suicidal antipathies against Southern fellow-countrymen.

"Just then an English renegade, once an English common soldier, then American journalist,

vilifying everything American, whose Porcupine shafts were continually aimed at Mr. Gallatin, from flaming loyalist, become furious radical, Cobbett, stood up in the midst of Hampshire, in the heart of England, a volunteer American champion, when there was no American inducement to his vehement espousal of our cause. With the superior knowledge, derived from long residence, of the institutions, people, and resources of this country, he wielded coarse, pure, Saxon English, with the force of Swift or Paine, in American vindication, striking with a pen like a sledge-hammer, and always hitting in the right place. Pitt, Percival, and afterwards Castlereagh, successive English premiers, who all died by political excesses, once objects of his excessive applause, became butts of his withering ridicule, and marks of his deadly blows, America erst abominated, at last his delight; sturdy English volunteer, proclaiming the justice of our cause, the fortitude of our people, their republican attachments and unconquerable union in spite of prefatory reverses, superficial and party divisions."

WEBSTER.

"With provincial antiquated pronunciation, scholastic diction, sarcastic logic, yet free from personality, a cold manner, profound reverence for the most English principles of American institutions, and saturnine apprehension of French influence to which he ascribed Jefferson and Madison's politics, and the war, by powerful speeches, Mr. Webster then commenced his eminent career, more eminently forensic than parliamentary, and much more oratorical than statesmanlike. He opposed the war because declared rashly, and conducted not only feebly, but offensively, when, if ventured at all, it should be defensive."

CLAY.

"But there was one alone with ultramontane, transallegheanian instincts of uncompromising resistance to any British exaction, as several years afterwards partially appeared in print; that one, as Lord Castlereagh called him, was the Kentuckian, Mr. Clay, whose social independence that polished, iron-nerved, and elegant courtier, is said to have preferred, when after peace he entertained them all in London, to the endowments of his more cultivated and accomplished colleagues. For as for war, so for diplomacy, for oratory, even for society, there is genius which outstrips the endowments of culture. Born on the Atlantic shore, and bred in seaports, where with every importation come, like ship-fevers, unwholesome influences, let us confess that beyond the mountains man becomes a nobler republican, ruder perhaps of speech, garb, and manner, but patriot as women are chaste, not by reason or education, but by instinct."

OXFORD HEXAMETERS.

The Bothie of Toper-na-Fuosich, a Long-Vacation Pastoral. By Arthur Hugh Clough. Cambridge: John Bartlett. 1849.

This little book has been a puzzle to some of our Republican readers who are principled against Fraser. For as Mr. Bartlett has given no intimation whatever on the title-page that there was any such thing as an original English edition, they, seeing a book published at Cambridge, Mass., and composed in many-footed lines, that run over like too copiously filled glasses (extra water will produce the fulness as well as extra spirit), thought that it must be some progeny of *Evangeline*, either in the way of imitation or quiz. Whereas it has about as much to do with *Evangeline* as with Southey's *Vision of Judgment*. The English have been writing English Hexameters (and Pentameters too, by the way) for several years. We remember at least two partial translations of the *Iliad*, by different hands, and a number of poems, original and translated, the joint composition of three distinguished

University men, Archdeacon Hare, Dr. Whewell, and (we believe) Professor Long. Indeed, there were plenty of Hexametrists before Longfellow (we speak of the present generation, without going back to Southey, much less to Sidney), but they are not often heard of on this side the water, because they want a sacred Bostonian.

English Hexameters have generally one of two faults. Either a uniformity of structure that gives them a monotony of cadence, or a carelessness of structure that leaves them no cadence at all. The former is the prevailing error of *Etangeline*. Every line in it is the exact rhythmical and metrical counterpart of almost every other line. There is no variety of *cæsura* or movement throughout the whole poem, and the monotony of the versification reminds us of a machine, invented in England a few years ago, which *ground out* hexameters to any extent, on the principle of the kaleidoscope somehow, and all after this pattern,

Murmura torres tubæ percussant pectora dura,

every line containing four neuter-plurals, a Molossus of a verb,* and an Iambic genitive. The "Bothie of what do you call it," has the opposite and worse fault of using so many variations and licenses, that the majority of the lines which it contains are no hexameters at all, and can only be admitted as apologies for such by a stretch of charity rather than of courtesy. The author benevolently warns us, that every kind of irregularity must be expected, and that "Spondaic lines are almost the rule;" unfortunately most of these "Spondaic lines" are rather *Trochaic* lines, e. g. the second in the volume.

"Long had the stone been put, free cast, and thrown the hammer."

And by way of compensation for occasionally falling short a few syllables, they now and then run over a good many, till they almost equal the notorious Alexandrine of the Scotch versifier:—

"And was not Pharaoh a saucy rascal,
Who would not let the Children of Israel, their wives
and their little ones, their flocks and their herds,
and everything they had, go out into the wilderness
for seven days to eat the Paschal?"

The plot of "The Bothie" is the merest thread. Six Oxford men go out on a *Reading party*. *Reading*, in the University slang, means *studying*, and the reading parties are so called, on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle, because the party do anything but read. The veritable students stay at the University, while the "parties" betake them to quiet little places (such as the Island of Jersey, for instance), where the wine is cheap and the women handsome, and the climate pleasantly enervating, and "the contingent advantages generally remarkable," as Dick Swiveller says—it may be judged how much *reading* they accomplish. Our party go to the Highlands, bathe chiefly, and one of them falls in love, and is ultimately married to a mountain lassie: his amatory proceedings are made the medium of introducing more Carlyle and Tennyson run mad than we have seen for many a day. However, not wishing to prejudice the reader, we shall give him a few extracts to judge for himself; and they shall be given in accordance with the more fashionable than just rule of picking out the best bits we can find:—

THE USE OF DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS OF CLERGYMEN.

"Here too were Catholic Priest and Established Minister standing.
One to say grace before, the other after the dinner;

* By this formidable expression the writer appears to mean a verb of three long syllables.—*Printer's D.*

Catholic Priest; for many still cling to the Ancient Worship.
And Sir Hector's father himself had built them a chapel;
So stood Priest and Minister, near to each other, but silent.
One to say grace before, the other after the dinner."

A touching picture of concord this: it reminds us of a venerable and lamented friend, who used to give little soirées to all the *ists* and *oxies* in the city, from Hughes to Bellows inclusive—and the interference of the Police was not found necessary on a single occasion:—

WHAT THE "READING PARTY" DID WITH THEIR BOOKS.

"Lo the weather is golden, the weather-glass, say they,
rising;

Four weeks here have we read; four weeks will we read
hereafter;

Three weeks hence will return and revisit our dismal
classics,

Three weeks hence readjust our visions of classes and
classics.

Fare ye well, meantime, forgotten, unnamed, undreamt of,
History, Science, and Poets: lo, deep in dustiest cupboard
Thoukydid, Oloros' son, Halimiosian, here lieth buried,*
Slumber in Liddell-and-Scott, O musical chaff of Old
Athens,

Dishes and fishes, bird, beast, and Sesquipedalian black-
guard!

Sleep, weary Ghosts, be at peace, and abide in your lex-
icon-limbo,

Sleep, as in lava for ages your Herculean kindred,
Æschylus, Sophocles, Homer, Herodotus, Pindar, and
Plato."

QUANDARY OF AN "EARNEST MAN," AFTER THE MANNER OF CARLYLE.

"I am sorry to say, your Providence puzzles me sadly;
Children of circumstance are we to be? You answer, oh,
no wise!

Where does Circumstance end, and Providence where be-
gins it?

In the revolving sphere which is upper, which is under?
What are we to resist, and what are we to be friends
with?

If there is battle, 'tis battle by night: I stand in the dark-
ness,

Here in the mêlée of men, Ionian and Dorian on both
sides,

Signal and pass-word known; which is friend and which
is foe-man?

Is it a friend? I doubt, though he speak with the voice of
a brother.

Still you are right, I suppose; you always are and will be.
Though I mistrust the Field Marshal, I bow to the duty of
order.

Let us all get on as we can, and do what we're meant for,
Or, as is said in your favorite weary old Ethics, our *ergon*.
Yet is my feeling rather to ask, where is the battle?

Neither battle I see nor arraying, nor King in Israel,
Only infinite jumble and mess and dislocation,
Backed by a solemn appeal 'for God's sake do not stir
there."

METAPHYSIC MUSINGS AND LOVE-LONGINGS OF A POETIC YOUNG RADICAL.

"Souls of the dead, one fancies, can enter, and be with
the living;

Would I were dead, I keep saying, that so I could go and
uphold her!

Spirits escaped from the body can enter and be with the
living,

Entering unseen, and reliving unquestioned, they bring,
do they feel, too?

Joy, pure joy, as they mingle and mix inner essence with
essence;

Would I were dead, I keep saying, that so I could go and
uphold her!

Joy, pure joy, bringing with them, and when they retire
leaving after

No cruel shame, no prostration, despondency, memories
rather,

Sweet, happy hopes bequeathing, Ah! wherefore not
thus with the living?

Would I were dead, I keep saying, that so I could go and
uphold her!

Is it impossible, say you, these passionate fervent
impulsions,

These projections of spirit to spirit, these inward em-
braces

Should in strange ways, in her dreams should visit her,
strengthen her, shield her?

Is it possible rather that these great floods of feeling
Settling in daily from me towards her, should impotent
wholly

Bring neither sound nor motion, to that sweet shore they
heave to?

Efflux here, and there no stir nor pulse of influx!
It must reverberate surely, reverberate idly, it may be.

Yes, hush! He set us bounds which we shall not pass, and
cannot!

Would I were dead, I keep saying, that so I could go and
uphold her!

* A literal translation of the pseudo-epitaph of Thucy-
dides.

† *Chaff* is fast-man for banter.

Surely, surely, when sleepless I lie in the mountain
lamenting,
Surely, surely, she hears in her dreams a voice 'I am
with thee!'
Saying 'although not with thee; behold, for we mated
our spirits.
Then, when we stood in the chamber, and knew not the
words we were saying,
Yea, if she felt me within her, when not with one finger
I touched her,
Surely she knows it, and feels it, while, sorrowing here
in the moorland,
Would I were dead, I keep saying, that so I might go and
uphold her!'"

And hereabouts we fell into a doze, and dreamed that a friend asked us what we had been reading, and we told him the *Bother* of toping no Physick, and he said he thought the title a very strange one and not at all true, for it was the *Bother* of toping Physick that had disgusted him with the old school and made him a *Some-thing-or-other-path*, and then we woke up in the act of writing a dreary essay on English Hexameters, which would infallibly have put our public to sleep, but we shall be merciful, and only inflict on them this stray scrap of it.

English lines that will do duty for *Hexameters* are the easiest things possible to write—easier than any kind of rhyme. *Real* English Hexameters are harder to write than real Blank Verse, and *à fortiori* harder than any kind of rhyme. Even these are chiefly valuable as *tour de force*. Sir Philip Sidney wrote Hexameters in his day, so did Southey in his, so do Hare, Whewell, Longfellow, Clough, *cum multis aliis*, at the present time; but the metre is never likely to be popular. We say this not on account of any particular unfitness in the Hexameter for the purposes of modern *versification*, so much as on the general principle that *exotic* metres cannot be successfully introduced into a language already supplied with measures of verse. A strong instance of this is afforded by the German Trochaic Stanza of Five-Trochee lines, with Catalectic lines alternating. No one ever read "The Gods of Greece" or "The Bride of Corinth" in the original without being struck with the beauty and grandeur of this metre, yet we will wager that no one prefers Bulwer's translation of the latter poem to Anstey's. Nor has Aytoun's original poem in the same stanza (Hermotinus), though published in Blackwood with a particular description of and eulogy on the measure prefixed, found many admirers or imitators in ten years, and the author has not been tempted to repeat the experiment.

C. A. B.

The Life and Writings of De Witt Clinton.
By Wm. W. Campbell, Author of "Border Warfare of New York." Baker & Scribner. 1849.

WE are surprised that after so great a lapse of time and the ample sources and opportunities acknowledged by the editor in his preface, we should be furnished with so meagre and insufficient a memoir of a man who has occupied so wide a space in the history of his native state. Nor are any grounds in family reluctance, or the delicacy of the times, set forth for withholding from us a familiar and detailed narrative of the career and personal fortunes of Governor Clinton. It may be that the leading public incidents being provided for there is very little to tell; we imagine that with a little painstaking the editor might, however, have embroidered on that general history some anecdote or two of the times, a picturesque sketch or so of the unions and fantastic divisions of party (there was never more invention and fancy thrown into the designations and doings of party than during the career of the subject of Mr. Campbell's

life), or some relief or other sheer out of the head of the biographer himself. As it is, we have some twelve or thirteen very open pages as the whole *Life and Times of De Witt Clinton*; the rest of the volume is filled out with various college and public addresses, and Governor Clinton's "Private Canal Journal in 1810."

We confess frankly to our disappointment in this book. It is from one of our most enterprising publishing houses, who have mostly had the luck to issue attractive and popular works; is edited by a gentleman of considerable distinction, who has for many years borne the reputation of a judicious writer, and has for its subject one of the acknowledged great men of the state. We cannot afford to waste our good opportunities in this way; and we hope that in another edition, which the public must call for, Mr. Campbell will take occasion to revise the work closely, and extend the scanty memoir into an ample and comprehensive life.

A Visit to my Fatherland. By Ridley H. Herschel. Philadelphia: 1844.

This is a neat reprint of a little work which has already had a considerable circulation in England. Mr. Herschel, a descendant of Abraham, visited Palestine in 1843, to ascertain by personal inspection the state and prospects of the Jews in their fatherland. He is himself a minister of the Protestant faith; and his journey seems to have been undertaken with some reference to the expected return of the Jewish people to their ancient home. Mr. H. was afterwards in this country, on invitation (we believe) of the Society for the Jews; and we remember to have heard him preach on one occasion in this city. He took the strong ground of Dr. Keith, viz. that God's covenant with Abraham has never yet been fulfilled; and therefore we are to expect its still future fulfillment, and the future permanent establishment of the Jews in the Promised Land. If this be so, it is singular that it never occurred to Paul's mind, either when he was writing to the Romans on the future destinies of his people (Rom., ch. xi.), or when claiming in behalf of Christians all the promises made of old to Abraham; see Gal. iii. 29.

The Deer-Stalkers; or, Circumstantial Evidence. A Tale of the South-western Counties. By Frank Forrester. Carey & Hart, Phila.

MR. HERBERT, alias Frank Forrester, by a continuance in well-doing in good writing for many years, has succeeded in establishing a circle of readers of his own—who look for and purchase his books as regularly as the established admirers of Mr. G. P. R. James, Harrison Ainsworth, or Bulwer Lytton. He has two sides of adventure on which he is accustomed to make a descent—the historical novel and the sporting story. The present, as its title plainly tells, belongs to the latter class, has a peculiar interest of its own in the narrative, and is much more useful and even elegant in the style than one could reasonably expect to find in an "occasional" novel. It will no doubt be widely welcomed by the extensive circle through the country, who "take" to these popular series of American Humorous Works in which it is published.

A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam. By the Author of "Old Joliffe," "A Merry Christmas," &c. Boston: James Munroe & Co.

This title is of inviting promise, and the fulfillment is fully equal to the expectation created. The plan of this little volume is somewhat similar to those of Mr. Dickens's Christmas stories.

We are introduced to old David Coombe, a cobbler of twenty years' standing, but those years of labor have sufficed only to provide the supplies of food and raiment needful from day to day, with no comfortable residuum of "money laid up." David has become rather rusty in manners and

apparel, and downhearted to boot. He has a visit from a sisterhood of Sunbeams, and the effect of their good counsels is to induce him to mingle more with his fellow-creatures, to cultivate his genial impulses, and seek out occasions for their exercise. He applies to his kind-hearted landlady to clean out his room for him, and makes a similar application of soap and water to his own person, with happy effect both to his inner and outer man. To learn how much pleasanter his life is made by an attention to its duties, beyond the surgery of old shoes, though that is not neglected, the pleasant domestic scenes and incidents in which he consequently plays his part, and the frequent visit of the Sunbeams, we must refer our readers, and above all our lady readers, to the book itself, assuring them that if they will purchase the "Trap" they will assuredly "catch a sunbeam," fine and clear as these opening ones of June, in the pleasure its perusal will afford, and the renewed good humor with the world it will leave them in.

Mitchell's Intermediate or Secondary Geography. 4to Phila.: Thomas, Cowperthwait & Co.

This is a more comprehensive work on the plan of the author's popular Primary Geography, and forms an introduction in turn to the School Geography. It is arranged in a series of lessons, where simplicity and clearness are always kept in view. The system of pronunciation of foreign names is arranged in accordance with Baldwin's Pronouncing Gazetteer. The colored maps, forty in number, are "up" to the latest annexations. These being printed, and well printed, on the page, facilitate the pupil's studies, and constitute, indeed, the main feature of the now extensively used quarto Geographies. We trust soon to see some of our enterprising publishers introducing the series of Maps of Johnston's Physical Atlas. A quarto Physical Geography would be a highly remunerative undertaking. The woodcuts to Mitchell's Geography are numerous, and the large vignettes to the leading divisions are particularly spirited and well executed.

The American's Guide: comprising the Declaration of Independence; the Articles of Confederation; the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitutions of the several States composing the Union. Philadelphia: Hogan & Thompson. 1849.

A COMPACT 12mo. volume of convenient form for reference. Its contents are clearly indicated in the title page. They are brought down to the latest date.

Original Poetry.

TREES IN THE CITY.

BY MRS. JOSEPH C. NEAL.

'Tis beautiful to see a forest stand
Brave with its moss-grown monarchs, and the
pride

Of foliage dense, to which the south wind bland
Comes with a kiss, as lover to his bride;
To watch the light grow fainter, as it streams
Through arching aisles, where branches interlace,

Where sombre pines rise o'er the shadowy gleams
Of silver birch, trembling with modest grace.

But ye who dwell beside the stream and hill,
Prize little treasures there so kindly given;
The song of birds, the babbling of the rill,
The pure unclouded light and air of heaven.
Ye walk as those who seeing cannot see,
Blind to this beauty even from your birth,
We value little blessings ever free,
We covet most, the rarest things of earth.

But rising from the dust of busy streets,
These forest children gladden many hearts;
As some old friend their welcome presence greets
The toil-worn soul, and fresher life imparts.

Their shade is doubly grateful when it lies
Above the glare which stifling walls throw
back,

Through quivering leaves we see the soft blue
skies,

Then happier tread the dull unvaried track.

And when the first fresh foliage, emerald-hued,
Is opening slowly to the sun's glad beams,
How it recalleth scenes we once have viewed,

And childhood's fair, but long forgotten dreams.
The gushing spring, with violets clustering round,—

The dell where twin flowers trembled in the
breeze,—

The fairy visions wakened by the sound
Of evening winds that sighed among the trees.

There is a language given to the flowers,—

To me, the trees, "dumb oracles" have been;
As waving softly, fresh from summer showers

Their whisper to the heart will entrance win.

Do they not teach us purity may live

Amid the crowded haunts of sin and shame,

And over all a soothing influence give,—

Sad hearts from fear and sorrow oft reclaim?

And though transferred to uncongenial soil,

Perehance to breathe alone the dusty air,

Burdened with sounds of never ceasing toil,—

They rise as in the forest free and fair,—

They do not droop and pine at adverse fate,

Or wonder why their lot should lonely prove,

But give fresh life to hearts left desolate,—

Yet emblems of a pure, unselfish love.

TO FANNY OSGOOD.

BY MARY E. HEWITT.

One day—the Indian sages tell—

Young Love, all armed with bow and quiver,

Throned on a lotus-wreathed shell,

Came voyaging down the Sacred River.

The maids who saw the child afloat,

And fondly sought but failed to bind him;

Lit up at night their flowing boat,

And sent it o'er the wave to find him.

But ah! the minion only smiled

At those dark daughters of the Ganges;

For Love is but a wilful child,

Whom coaxing e'er the more estranges.

The boy sped onward down the stream,

Away by many a pass terrific;

Until with sunset's golden gleam

He launched upon the broad Pacific.

By many an isle and round Cape Horn

He swept, still flinging wide his arrows;

'Till faint and worn, one sunny morn

The God came floating up the "Narrows."

Ah! woe the morn! ah! woe the day!

When by the shore our maidens found him;

For thou with tuneful cords, they say,

Within the pearly shell hast bound him!

And now, with wondrous skill and art,

Thou sweep'st the all-entrancing lyre;

While Love shoots true at every heart

From underneath the thrilling wire!

RHYMED HEXAMETERS AND PENTAMETERS.

Roaming along the highway, 'tother even, enjoy-
ing the twilight,

Thus I accosted a boor, breaking up stones on
the road,

"What is that house, my friend, on the hill-side,
with the tall sky-light?"

"Whoy, it's the Squire's," he replied, "lauk!
I thought ev'ry one know'd."

"Squire's! what squire?" then I asked; "whoy,
zur, the Squire of our village.

All on us calls 'un the Squire," answered the
thick-headed boor.

"Is he a rich man? farmer? famed for pasture or
tillage?"

"O he's a rum 'un, the Squire, very odd cove
to be sure!"

"Rum, why, what has he done that is rum? let's have it, old fellow."
 "O zur, get's drunk as a Turk: only last Tuesday a year,
 Challenged in church the old clerk to fight 'un, when he wur mellow.
 Old parson Gubbins, they zay, guv it 'un rayther severe.
 But it's a zad thing, zur, to see what the Squoire is reduced to
 Zince he was blowed by the priest: 'taint the zame man as afore."
 "O, he's reformed, I s'pose, and dont get drunk as he used to."
 "Drunk? 'a gets drunk enow but—don't go to church any more."

(American Review.)

AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY.

THE American Oriental Society held its annual meeting in Boston, on the 16th ult. In the forenoon the Society met at the Rooms of the American Academy, for the transaction of business. In the absence of the President, and at the request of the senior Vice-President, Dr. Jenks, Hon. Edward Everett presided.

An important item of business was the adoption of certain By-laws, by which the classical scholars who are, or may be, members of the society, were organized into a Classical section of the society, under the supervision of a Secretary, for the promotion of classical studies so far as they bear upon the objects of the Society. Professor Beck of Cambridge was elected Secretary of this Section.

Presentations to the library were made in behalf of Mr. John P. Brown of Constantinople, Professor Sears of Newton, the German Oriental Society, and Professor Roediger of Halle.

The following officers of the Society, for the ensuing year, were elected:

President.—Prof. Edward Robinson, N. Y.
Vice-Presidents.—Rev. Dr. W. Jenks, Boston; Prof. M. Stuart, Andover; President Woolsey, New Haven.

Corr. Secretary.—Prof. Edwd E. Salisbury, New Haven.

Rec. Secretary.—Mr. Chas. Short, Roxbury.

Treasurer.—Mr. Wm. W. Greenough, Bos.

Librarian.—Mr. Francis Gardner, Boston.

Directors.—Prof. Chas. Beech, Cambridge; Rev. Dr. Rufus Anderson, Boston; Prof. B. B. Edwards, Andover; Prof. C. C. Felton, Cambridge; Rev. Theodore Parker, Boston.

In the evening, the Society met at the house of Mr. W. W. Greenough, the Treasurer, to hear papers read which had been prepared for the occasion, and extracts from the correspondence. President Woolsey in the Chair. Prof. B. B. Edwards made some remarks on Chevalier Bunsen's late publication entitled "Egypt's Position in the History of the World," criticising the author's views of the antiquity of Egyptian civilization. Prof. C. C. Felton spoke on the general results of the latest investigations in Etrurian antiquities, with especial reference to the works of Gerhard and Dennis. Rev. Theod. Parker read and commented upon extracts from Rev. Mr. Merriek's translation of "Hayât ul-kulûb," the Life of Hearts, on the life and doctrines of Mohammed, of which the Society will publish a specimen in the next number of its Journal. Mr. Hernisz, of Boston, read part of a chapter of a Chinese Historical Novel, entitled "Se Jim Kwei Ching Tung Tswen Chwang," a complete History of Se Jim Kwei's conquests in the East, translated by

himself, of which the plot is laid in the reign of the second Emperor of the Tang dynasty, who flourished in the seventh century of our era.

Correspondence presented at this meeting: A letter from Prof. Rudolph Roth, of Tübingen, announcing a copy of his edition of the "Nirukta," an ancient commentary on the Veda, for the Society's library.—A letter from Prof. Lassen of Bonn, giving the information that the second volume of his "Indische Alterthumskunde," a unique and very valuable work on the antiquities of India, is now in the press; and that Prof. Burnouf of Paris has been printing on certain discoveries made by him in the arrow-headed inscriptions of Nineveh.—A letter from Dr. Bridgman of Shanghai, on a copy made for the Society of a fac-simile of the famous Nestorian monument, discovered in China some years ago.—A letter from Rev. Mr. Jones, Baptist missionary at Bangkok, in Siam, on the subject of Buddhism. The writer hopes to be able, on some future occasion, to furnish something which may throw new light upon the psychology and the moral system of the Buddhists. In 1840, Mr. Jones completed a translation of the New Testament into Siamese, which was published in 1842. Under the superintendence of Mr. Jones and other missionaries in Siam, a brief grammar of the Siamese was issued in 1842, and a dictionary has been on hand many years receiving additions and corrections. A translation of the Old Testament into Siamese, is about to be undertaken by Mr. Jones.—Three letters from Mr. John P. Brown, with a list of the books published at Constantinople in the year 1847, and a translation of the Index to the Turkish version of Et-Tabary's Annals. Mr. Brown has recently completed, and sent home, in the hope that it may be published in this country, a translation of the "Wonders of remarkable Incidents and Rarities of Anecdote" by Suheily, published at Constantinople in 1840. This is a collection of authentic anecdotes designed for entertainment and instruction, by a compiler who lived in the reign of Murad IV., in the early part of the seventeenth century of our era. The work has been spoken of by the well-known orientalist Von Hammer, as one of very great interest. The following passages are extracted from the author's Preface. "It is as evident as the sun in the midst of the heavens, to those who seek for knowledge and information, that history polishes man's nature, and rubs away the rust of his afflictions, and that the talent of evening-narrators is one which enlivens the circle of society, and is the source of joy and pleasure. Thus the intelligent know that narrators who are gifted with affability of disposition, quickness of perception, and judgment, are possessed of sciences like strung pearls. 'Say, are the ignorant and the knowing equal?' Persons of experience and knowledge of the world have acquired their knowledge from history and biography, and have collected whatever was strange and remarkable; but surely this kind of compilation cannot be easy to every one, and the attaining to it cannot be perfected except by daily study in voluminous books. Therefore, I, the parasite of the table of the love of my affectionate brethren, that is to say, the humble Ahmed Ibn Hundem, the Kitkhoda, known by the name of Suheily,—may Allah spread his benefits over him, and pardon him and his children!—have collected the following pearls from the seas of authentic works, and these sparkling jewels from the mines of celebrated

authors, in which are folded and contained the histories of the ancients, the accounts of the best of the learned and the philosophers. * * I translated them from the Arabic and Persian tongues, wrought them into a new form, and gave them new light and expression in the Turkish idiom. * * I have particularly applied myself to collecting such tales and narratives as are authentic and instructive, and, at the same time, more or less curious. So that their moral application will be seen by every one."

The Fourth Number of the Society's Journal is just published, containing, in addition to some preliminary pages relative to the operations of the Society, and extracts from its correspondence, the following papers:

Comparative Vocabularies of some of the principal Negro Dialects of Africa, by Rev. John Leighton Wilson, missionary of the Am. Board on the Gabon; with Supplementary Notes by the Committee of publication.

The Zulu Language, by Rev. James C. Bryant, missionary of the Am. Board among the Zulus.

The Zulu and other Dialects of Southern Africa, by Rev. Lewis Grout, missionary of the Am. Board among the Zulus.

Et-Tabary's Conquest of Persia by the Arabs, translated from the Turkish, by John P. Brown, Esq., Dragoman of the United States Legation at Constantinople.

Translation of an Imperial Berat, issued by Sultan Selim III. A. H. 1215, appointing the monk Hohannes, Patriarch of all the Armenians of Turkey, with Notes, by Rev. H. G. O. Dwight, missionary of the Am. Board in Turkey.

On the identification of the signs of the Persian cuneiform alphabet, by Edward E. Salisbury (with a plate).

On the present condition of the medical profession in Syria, by Rev. C. V. A. Van Dyck, M.D., missionary of the Am. Board in Syria.

Copies of this number are for sale in Boston, at Messrs. Little and Brown's bookstore; in New York, at Mr. G. P. Putnam's; and in New Haven, at Mr. A. H. Maltby's.

The Fine Arts.

INTERNATIONAL ART-UNION.

SEVERAL of the finest paintings belonging to this Institution, as the Dead Christ of Ary Scheffer, the Children Leaving School of Waldmuller, and others, have recently been exhibited in Philadelphia, Boston, Providence, and other cities, with great success. The exhibitions have been gratuitous—a piece of liberality on the part of the proprietors which we are glad to learn has been responded to by numerous subscriptions on the part of the public. This plan of exhibitions in different cities is a good one, and we doubt not will be of service to the institution.

In addition to the purchase of works of Art, it is the intention of the projectors to set apart a portion of its funds, each year, to the support of an American student in Europe. This is a feature of the plan which cannot but be favorably regarded; but the appointment will be a matter of delicacy. We would suggest that a specimen of their abilities should be required from each applicant, and that the designs thus furnished should be exhibited in the gallery for a short time. This would create an interest in the public in relation to the appointment, and excite the competitors to use their best exertions. Similar exhibitions take place several times in the year at the École

des Beaux Arts at Paris, and are always well attended.

The public are relieved from any uncertainties which might naturally be felt in reference to a new institution by the long and honorable standing of its projectors, Messrs. Goupil, Vibert & Co., who have for many years done the arts good service by the choicely executed engravings they have issued.

ART ITEMS.

— A new group by Mr. Brackett, the sculptor, is now on exhibition in Boston. The Transcript says: "It is called the Wreck, and represents a mother clasping her child. Both are in the unconsciousness of death, and lie as if washed by the tide upon a rock. The figures are large as life. That of the mother is remarkably well conceived and executed. With one arm she clasps her infant, and the other is thrown backward so as to give an opportunity for a masterly study of anatomical symmetry, which the artist has faithfully improved. The expression of the face is placid and natural."

— Among the new attractions of the Art-Union gallery, in Broadway, is a bust of a Lady, by Mr. Crawford. Her head is decorated with a veil, which is drawn over her shoulder; the lower part of the bust is bordered by a slight wreath of flowers. The drapery is somewhat too elaborate and suggestive of the dressmaker; the face is beautiful and animated. A winter landscape, by D. C. W. Boutelle, recently added, is an attractive picture, and divides the honors with Gignoux's representation of a similar scene.

— Cheap Prints. "The King of Belgium," says the Art Journal, "upon the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior, has directed the publication at the expense of the government, of a series of prints embracing subjects from the history of the country, portraits of eminent persons, remarkable monuments and antiquities, as well as local views. A series will also be executed relative to the Natural Sciences, Rural Economy, the Arts and Sciences; the great Flemish masters will also furnish a contingent." The prints are all to be from wood engravings, and to be sold at two sous (cents) each. They are particularly intended for the use of schools. The expenses not covered by the sales, are to be defrayed from the amount charged in the Budget for the advancement of the Fine Arts.

— It was stated some time since by the Roman Correspondent of the Times, that the Apollo Belvidere had been purchased from the Roman Republican Government, and was to be taken to America, but we see that the Roman Correspondent of the Daily News (whose letters should be republished here, as being liberal and graphic accounts of the stirring events taking place in the Eternal City) contradicts and ridicules the story. It would be a subject of regret that any of the great works of art should leave Rome even for America, but if they are to be dispersed we should certainly rejoice if our country should become the possessor of the greatest prize of all; but we fear that this is "too good to be true."

In a late number of the Athenæum it is stated on good authority, "though that Journal will not guarantee the fact, that the Marquis of Hertford has become the possessor of the Transfiguration."

Four cases containing works of art from Rome, in the possession of a German Jew, have it is said, been seized by the French Government in Paris. We give these stories for

what they are worth, as everything relating to these great treasures is interesting.

Many of the paintings of the Gallery at Berlin, it is stated, were pierced by balls in the recent city agitations—The Madonna of Murillo received three; Rubens' Rape of the Sabines has also suffered; more injury would have been done but for the care of M. Schulze, who, at the risk of his life, unhung the most valuable paintings during the fire.

— The Exhibition of the Royal Academy is spoken of as being this year remarkably good. Frost's picture of "The Sirens" attracts continual crowds. It is painted with his usual careful drawing and freshness of color. A young artist, whose name is comparatively new, Hook, has two or three pictures of great promise and brilliancy in color, the forte of the English school of painting; these specimens of his talent are said to be particularly beautiful. The popular Frank Stone has one of his characteristic fancies, entitled "A Duet andante con moto," but in this instance the costumes are more modern, and therefore less happy than in some of his well-known compositions.

— The opening of Gore House, the residence of Lady Blessington, for the sale of the numerous works of Art, vertu, &c., which ornamented that distinguished "celebrity," by auction, has afforded an interesting lounge to the London cognoscenti and amateurs. The sale has taken place, occupying thirteen days. There were rare articles of Sèvres porcelain, a choice collection of jewellery, numerous sketches by Landseer, original portraits by Count D'Orsay, &c. Among a great mass of items we notice: A clock, chased in ormolu, on a pedestal of old Bleu du Roi Sèvres, enamelled in medallions of Cupids, once belonging to Maria Antonette (sold for £48 6s.); a model in silver of the Countess of Blessington's hands, by Count D'Orsay, weighing about 100 ounces (sold for £34); Napoleon's Eagle, an original sketch, by Landseer, 1842 (£26 5s.); The Countess of Blessington, by Sir Thomas Lawrence, bought for the Marquis of Hertford at £336; the Duke of Wellington, by D'Orsay, 180 guineas; a collection of portraits of the aristocracy and distinguished political and literary characters of the day, designed by Count D'Orsay, and consisting of 263 subjects, drawn in pencil, and occasionally tinted, with the autograph signatures in most cases of the sitters; uniformly mounted, and contained in two elegant portfolios, purchased by Mr. Boone of Bond Street for 165 guineas.

MUSIC.

CONCERT AT THE TABERNACLE.

A GRAND miscellaneous concert was given on Thursday evening, at the Tabernacle in Broadway, under the title of "Testimonial to Mr. Distin and his Sons;" several artists having volunteered their assistance on the occasion of their last concert in America. The programme was headed by a performance by the well-drilled Dodsworth's Cornet Band, of "Largo al Factotum." Like everything else played by this band, it was admirably done, and met with an uproarious encore. The other instrumentalists were Messrs. Hoffman and Burke, who gave one of their concertante duets from Guillaume Tell (De Beriot). We have spoken so frequently of the performance of these gentlemen, that we can have little to particularize in this instance. We should have been glad, however, to have heard Mr. Hoffman alone, and in some composition that would

have exhibited more fully his great excellences of style and touch; in this instance the violin, as was natural in De Beriot, assumed the principal part. It was still evident that this young pianist possesses that rare qualification, a perfect sympathy with and command over his instrument; his touch is something like perfection. Another duet was played by Messrs. Timm and Kyle. The Distins performed three or four of their most popular operatic arrangements, and with the absolute unity of one instrument; the ensemble is perfect, and causes all other concerted music to sound slovenly and unfinished afterwards. The vocal portion consisted of Casta Diva, as sung by Mlle. Lovarny, a ballad from Miss O'Connor, also a song from Mr. Jones; and "Let the bright Seraphim," sung by Mrs. E. Loder, beautifully accompanied by Mr. Distin. The whole terminated by the Prayer from Moses in Egypt; but owing to the absurd system of encores so much in vogue, that termination was not reached until a very late hour, while the artists themselves, and the audience, with the exception of the enthusiastic and uproarious few, were wearied out with having had to perform twice, where once only was intended. The bad taste of such a proceeding is, however, becoming apparent to most persons, and must ere long exhaust itself. The room was full in every part.

The Drama.

BURTON'S—CHLOROFORM.

In view of the gloom which was last week asking board and lodging in our midst (the said gloom bearing letters of introduction from the St. Louis fire, the Crescent City inundation, the cholera, and the cosy relationship between the Quakers and the god Pluvius), Burton, with admirable medical sagacity, was busily engaged in compounding powders with which to cure all the reigning disorders of our citizens. A consultation was also had, and Dr. Logan, of the Western theatrical colleges, gave, as his opinion, that a dose of Chloroform was the best thing which could be administered. Whereupon ensued a dialogue something like the following:

Burton (with the peculiar duck of the head and look of surprise). What! give Chloroform to the patrons of my establishment? No, no. There's nothing stupid enough upon my stage to require Chloroform.

Brougham (smiling à la Power). Did ever ye hear the like of that, now? Kloryform to a theatrical congregation! 'Twould be a mighty good thing in the hands of some of the clergy, but never a bit at our place.

Burton. There's not a sponge about my theatre either; I couldn't administer it.

Brougham. If we were after a dibou, as the polly vooz's say, and had a first appearance to git over, your Kloryform wouldn't go badly, only how, but as we haven't, ye see —

Logan (impatiently). Understand me, my good friends, not the gassy article which all the big wigs of Eoton, Hartford, and New York are fighting about, but an improved article. It is not to be administered to the audience, but to myself. I propose to wake up a hundred years hence, and —

Burton. Enough—it shall be done—but you will have to be one of the company for the time being. It's against my principles ever to let my patrons see stars, however excellently I may spirit them.

Brougham. Give us your hand and the

cast. I'll send off to the printer's immediately. * * *

And so "Chloroform," in the shape of a burletta prepared by Dr. Logan, was administered (quoting from the bills, which always contain a few extra jokes) to choking audiences, in fifty and twenty-five cent doses.

The subject is the favorite theme of progress: an anticipation of what the future will bring forth, judging by what the past has done. The scene is laid in 1949. A young man named Edward Slocum (Lynne), with his sister (Miss Hill), are about to be ejected from their estates by a grasping usurer. Meeting in consultation with a lawyer they obtain the reading of an old collection of family papers, among which is found a confession by a dentist of 1849 to the effect that one Aminadab Slocum, while enduring the extraction of a tooth under the influence of Chloroform, died, and was (to prevent exposure) hidden by the dentist in a new building then being erected. Immediately, thinking the defunct may have had about his person sundry deeds which are wanting to complete their chain of title to the property they are losing, the brother addresses himself to the discovery of the body. Seeking the place indicated, instead of the skeleton he expected to find he found his illustrious progenitor, Aminadab (Mr. Logan), in a species of trance. The latter awakens, unconscious of his long nap, and Rip Van Winkle like, wonders at everything about him. Here commences the humor of the piece, which is broad and burlesque at times.

The ancient style of dress is again in vogue; newsboys cry extras, containing a speech then being delivered in China; balloons are making hourly trips to England; pleasure excursions to the Bay of San Francisco (the most fashionable watering place in the world) are daily undertaken, with a stoppage at the Tremont ice cream gardens upon the Rocky mountains; females have monopolized the intellectual, and oratorize public meetings and edit newspapers with great vigor (scissoring perhaps more than penning), etc. etc. etc. Of course through the appearance of the defunct ancestor, the rights of his heirs are restored, and the several slight threads of plot tied together in a very convenient knot.

The "Chloroform" was administered very pleasingly; saving a little bit of buffoonery and drag-acting in some of the minor parts. But to criticize a burletta would be like dissecting a mosquito, or to find fault with any of Burton's company as unseemly as to quarrel with your own blood relations; the company and the relations are the gifts of Providence, and not to be complained of.

Lest a relapse in any of their patients should occur, Burton and Brougham, furthermore, thumped their pestles and mortars, and threw in their own professional exertions by way of a baker's dozen.

The members of the old Park pit may often be seen scattered about the Chambers street Theatre, enjoying themselves as of yore; you may know them by the smile which lights their faces when inestimable Mrs. Vernon comes down to the footlights, and by the hearty applause which often greets her quiet and telling acting. There are many nicer ways of detecting them also. They are attentive to the music, and will pick you out Massaniello and Der Freyschutz and Fra Diavolo at the first start of the violin bows. You will hear them leading the applause when the French horn obligato occurs in Bishop's "Miller and his Men." And as you single them out your theatrical enjoyment will brighten the more.

PERSONAL NEWS.

— The *Providence Journal* thus notices the early departure of the REV. MR. OSGOOD from his sphere of duty in that city, to enter upon the charge of the Church of the Messiah in New York. "It would not be easy to name a man whom we could less afford to lose, for the loss, though it will be deepest in his own church, will be felt by the whole city. Mr. Osgood's labors have by no means been confined to the pulpit. In every good work he has been conspicuous, and whatever has contributed to the true interests of the city, to its intellectual and moral advancement, has found in him a ready and a hearty supporter. The College, the Athenæum, the literary societies, the temperance cause, the benevolent institutions, will all have cause to remember him, and he will carry with him the good wishes and prayers of many besides the church to which he has so acceptably ministered."

— The congregation which met to receive the REV. DR. HAWKS at the University Chapel has been formally organized, and is to be known by the title of "the Church of the Mediation." The pews were at once rented for a very large aggregate sum.

— MR. E. G. SQUIER has been elected an Honorary Member of the Archæological Association of London.

— The General Assembly of the Presbyterian church have appointed the REV. J. W. ALEXANDER, D.D., of this city, to succeed Dr. Miller as Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, N. J.

— ELIZA COOK'S *Journal*, a weekly periodical just commenced in London, does not seem to be remarkable for anything but its brilliant promises. Of a class with the *People's Journal*, *Howitt's Journal*, &c., it assumes too much the arrogance of a teacher towards "the people," and consequently has a tone not likely to prove ultimately successful, nor is there any particular talent in the list of contributors, from which any great results are to be expected. It is, however, like other things, but a trial of the popular humors of the day.

— The *New York Journal*, announced by PARK BENJAMIN, G. G. FOSTER, and associates, "The Metropolis," has made its appearance. It is a large sheet with a great variety of matter; put together with the leading editor's old tact and resources. A journal of spirit and interest may be anticipated.

— The play of Mr. BOKER, entitled "Calaynos," published in Philadelphia the last season, has been produced at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London, under the management of Phelps, it is stated with success.

Publishers' Circular.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

MESSRS. HARPER have just ready, Dr. Carlyle's Prose Translation of Dante's *Inferno*.

POTNAM has published the New Romance of Dr. Mayo, "Kaloolah." He has also received the folio Illustrations of Nineveh by Layard.

MESSRS. MUNROE & Co., Boston, have published "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers."

FOREIGN POSTAGES.—As considerable difficulty has occurred in different parts of the country, especially in places remote from the large cities, in ascertaining correctly the rates of postage under the new postal treaty with Great Britain, we have obtained the following schedule of the various rates, which will be found of importance and convenient to all having occasion to correspond with parties in Great Britain or on the Continent.

Letters by the British or American steamers to England, Ireland, and Scotland, 24 cents a single

rate, to be prepaid or not. Newspapers 2 cents each, to be prepaid.

To the Continent of Europe by the British steamers 5 cents a single rate, and newspapers 2 cents each, to be prepaid.

Letters by the American steamers, to Portugal, France, Spain, Belgium, Holland, and Italy, 24 cents a single rate, must be prepaid, with the inland postage to New York to be added. Newspapers 3 cents each, to be prepaid.

Letters by the American steamers, to other places on the Continent of Europe, not mentioned above, can be paid or not, postage to New York to be added. Newspapers 3 cents each, to be prepaid.

Letters must be prepaid to Havana, 12½ cents. Chagres, 20 cents. Panama, 30 cents a single rate.

Letters to California from any part of the United States, can be prepaid or not, 40 cents a single rate. Transient newspapers 3 cents each, to be prepaid.

By single rate, is meant letters weighing a half ounce or less.

The Postmaster General has decided that the British *West India steamers* do not come within the provisions of the postal treaty, and letters sent by them hence, must have the inland postage prepaid.—*Courier and Enquirer*.

LIST OF BOOKS PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 26TH MAY TO JUNE 9TH.

- American's Guide; comprising the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and Constitutions of the U.S. and of each State. 12mo. pp. 491. (Phila.: Hogan & Thompson.)
- A Trap to catch a Sunbeam. 18mo. pp. 60. (Boston: Jas. Munroe & Co.)
- Bellows (Rev. H. W.)—A Sermon occasioned by the Late Riots in New York, preached in the Church of the Divine Unity on Sunday morning, May 13, 1849. 12mo. pp. 15 (C. S. Francis & Co.)
- Clough (A. H.)—The Bochie of Toper-na-fuosich. A Long Vacation Pastoral. 12mo. pp. 295. (Cambridge: John Bartlett.)
- Consolation; or, Comfort for the Afflicted, with a Preface and Notes by the Rev. P. H. Greenleaf, M.A. 12mo. pp. 248. (Boston: Jas. Munroe & Co.)
- Countries of Europe described. By author of the "Peep of Day." Illust. 16mo. pp. 320. (Phila.: George S. Appleton.)
- Documentary History of the State of New York, arranged under the Direction of the Hon. Chas. Morgan, by E. B. O'Callaghan. Maps and Encls. Vol. I, 8vo. pp. 787. (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., publishers and print.)
- Fletcher (Rev. J.)—Letters of, originally edited by the Rev. Melville Horne. 12mo. pp. 343 (Lane & Scott.)
- Frænke (H.)—Outlines of a New Theory of Disease, applied to Hydropathy, showing that Water is the only true remedy. Trans. by Robert Baikle, M.D. 12mo. pp. 271 (John Wiley.)
- Friends in Council: A Series of Readings, and Discourse thereon. 12mo. pp. 236 (Boston: James Munroe & Co.)
- Herbert (H. W.)—Dermot O'Brien; or, the Taking of Tredagh. A Tale of 1640. Illustrated. 16mo. pp. 166 (Stringer & Townsend.)
- Herschell (R. H.)—A Visit to my Fatherland; being a Visit to Syria and Palestine in 1843. 18mo. pp. 216 (Philadelphia: H. Longstrech & Co.)
- History of Wonderful Inventions (Boy's Own Library), illustrated. 2 parts, 16mo. pp. 246 (Harper & Bros.)
- Mercantile Library of Boston.—Twenty-Ninth Annual Report. 12mo. pp. 12.
- Mitchell (S. A.)—Intermediate or Secondary Geography. Illustrated by 40 Maps and numerous Woodcuts. 4to. pp. 80 (Philadelphia: Thomas Cowperthwait & Co.)
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